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RUNCORN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer
of Health

for the

Year ending December 31st, 1942.

Public Health Dept.,
Town Hall,
Runcorn.

**To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Runcorn.**

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the following curtailed report for 1942 which is in accordance with Ministry of Health instructions. The usual figures and details of all services which come under my control are being kept so that they can be included in a comprehensive report which will be required after the war.

Birth Rate.—17·9 per 1,000, against 18·8 for 1941.

Death Rate.—22·2 per 1,000, against 12·08 for 1941.

Infantile Mortality Rate.—56·2 per 1,000, against 64·9 for 1941.

Still Births.—44·0 per 1,000, against 29·2 for 1941.

The highest mortality figures given are due to the following causes:—Heart Disease, Pneumonia, Cancer.

There have been no outstanding causes of sickness or invalidity during the year. Measles, however, was rather prevalent, a total of 366 cases being notified.

Scarlet Fever was also in excess of last year—a total of 36 cases being registered.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Strenuous efforts have been made through the medium of the Press-Cinema Screens, Circular Letters, Birthday Cards, etc., to Parents and Guardians stressing their great responsibilities in connection with the Immunisation against Diphtheria, and to point out to them that the only real safeguard against the deadly disease Diphtheria is to act at once and have their children immunised under the Council's free scheme by visiting their own doctor; in addition, special

sessions are held each Thursday at Balfour Road First-Aid Post, Runcorn, when a fully-qualified doctor and staff are in attendance between the hours of 4 p.m. and 5 p.m.

During the year sessions have been held at the Welfare Centre, High Street, Runcorn. Approximately 75 per cent. of the child population had been immunised by the end of 1942, but we must get as near 100 per cent. as possible.

Water Samples.

Most satisfactory reports have been received on all samples submitted for analysis to the County Analyst.

Samples taken under the Food and Drugs Adulteration Act showed only 1·2 per cent. to be adulterated.

Canal Boats.

The Annual Report of the Canal Boat Inspector was good, and has already been forwarded to the Ministry.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area and Meat Inspections have been carried out most efficiently.

Health Propaganda.

An extensive campaign has been carried out, using all channels, especially dealing with Immunisation, Skin Diseases, Dietetics and Cooking; also Venereal Disease.

Salvage.

The collection of Salvage has been energetically carried out.

Scabies.

A Scheme has been put into operation during the year in accordance with the Ministry of Health Scabies Order, 1942, whereby persons suffering from Scabies are treated at Special Bathing and Treatment Centres—the treatment consisting of bathing and the application of Benzyl Benzoate. The incidence of Scabies has not been of a severe character, and since the commencement of the special scheme the abatement of Scabies is most satisfactory.

Infestation.

Infestations of children with head lice, which can not only convey infections but through irritation and sometimes septic conditions lower the standard of health of the children affected, is being dealt with as efficiently as possible. The use of Lethane Oil, Derbac Soap and Derbac Combs, also Hot Lysol, are strongly recommended and have been found to be most advantageous in the eradication of head lice.

Civil Defence Services.

I desire to commend the sustained loyalty and enthusiasm of all members, especially the First-Aid and Ambulance personnel.

In conclusion, I desire to express my sincere gratitude for the excellent way in which Dr. James Cullen and the late Dr. James Bennett carried out their duties as Acting Medical Officer of Health in the Runcorn Urban and Rural Districts respectively, also the Staff during my absence on active service with the R.A.F.

I beg to remain,

Your Obedient Servant,

E. N. HILLMAN GRAY,

Medical Officer of Health.